



Docket No. 1776-4070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#1
03/28/03
AS

Applicant(s) : ENDO et al.

Serial No. : 10/033,673

Group Art Unit: 1713

Filed : December 28, 2001

Examiner: Helen Lee PEZZUTO

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING COPOLYMER OF ALKYL VINYL
ETHER AND MALEIC ANHYDRIDE AND COPOLYMER OF
ALKYL VINYL ETHER AND MALEIC ANHYDRIDE

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2003 constituting a requirement for restriction in the above-identified application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I. Claims 1-19 are readable on the elected group. The election is made with traverse.

The MPEP states "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made **without serious burden**, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." See MPEP §803 (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that a search for the subject matter of both groups of distinct inventions would pose no "serious burden."

There would be no serious burden because the inventions of both Group I and Group II can be classified in the same class (class 526), as noted by the February 24, 2003 Office Action itself. Accordingly, both Group I and Group II may be searched simultaneously by searching class 526. Applicants also respectfully submit that it would be necessary to search both

Group I and Group II in order to ensure a complete search for either group and to have a proper examination on the merits.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the election/restriction requirement. In the event that the Examiner disagrees with the reasons set forth above, action on the merits of claims 1-19 (Group I) is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 21, 2003

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03-94.03

GP-1711

Docket No. 1776-4070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): ENDO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1711

Serial No.: 10/033,673

Examiner: Helen Lee Pezzuto

Filed: December 28, 2001

For: **METHOD FOR PRODUCING COPOLYMER OF ALKYL VINYL ETHER AND MALEIC ANHYDRIDE, AND COPOLYMER OF ALKYL VINYL ETHER AND MALEIC ANHYDRIDE**

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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Susan Shen

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